AKUMA TO DUET
2

A WORLD INFESTED WITH DEVILS.
AROOOOOOO
AGAIN, A DEMON'S HOWL...
I WONDER IF THE RUMOURS ARE TRUE,
THAT CLAUDE-SAMA IS REARING DEMONS IN THE CASTLE'S BASEMENT...
RIDICULOUS, HOW WOULD A HUMAN BE ABLE TO MANAGE THOSE DEMONS?
THOSE VICIOUS CREATURES...
Creak
THE WITCH... -NO,
GROOOWL
MEL-SAMA SURELY, WOULD KNOW HOW-

GAU
COME TO YOUR SENSES!
CLAUDE-SAMA,

FWUUSH
-YOU SAVED ME, MEL.
AS USUAL, YOUR VOICE IS VERY EFFECTIVE
HAA GLAD YOU THINK SO
Rustle
CLAUDE-SAMA.
WHAT IS THERE TO FEEL EMBARRASSED ABOUT? SOON WE'LL HAVE A HUSBAND AND WIFE RELATION-SHIP, SO-
TOO CLOSE
GOOD THING THERE'S EVEN AN EXTRA BED
NEVERTHELESS THAT WAS A GREAT POSE TOO
Stick
Stick
SMACK
HURRY UP AND LET GO OF ME—!
THIS IS THE CASTLE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY, PHIGALIA.

THE ROYAL FAMILY OF THIS COUNTRY HOLDS A SECRET.
LONG, LONG AGO, IN ORDER TO SURVIVE AN EPIDEMIC, THEY FORMED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE DEVIL.
Spare me some of your blood.
THEREBY, THE DEVIL'S BLOOD HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN TO GENERATIONS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY
THEY SUMMONED THE DAUGHTER OF THE MICK FAMILY, WHO POSSESSES THE ABILITY TO TAME DEVILS, TO THE PALACE AS A CANDIDATE FOR MARRIAGE
TO PROTECT THE ROYAL FAMILY'S SECRET.
AS SUCH ON NIGHTS WHEN THE MOON IS VISIBLE, THE PRINCE TURNS INTO A DEVIL HIMSELF

SHARING THE SAME BEDCHAMBER EVERY NIGHT, JUST WON'T DO!
CLAUDE-SAMA,
THAT WOULD BE ME.
Mel, Daughter of Rin Green Mick Household.
WASN'T THAT WHAT WE AGREED ON!?
NOPE, I CAN'T RECALL ALL THAT...
SEPARATE BEDCHAMBERS, NO CROSSING THE BOUNDARY, NO PHYSICAL CONTACT,
IT'S ALMOST RIDICULOUS.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU HOPE TO PROTECT THIS SECRET
It's a confidential matter but,
Not one person in the castle knows about the devil's blood.
THAT CONVERSATION AGAIN?
Claude (Issac), First Prince of Phigalia.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY?
I want to go back home now!
I said I'll deal with it!
"FREQUENTLY VISITING THE PRINCE'S BEDCHAMBER AS AND WHEN SHE PLEASES", "SLUTTY WITCH," YOU'VE HEARD THESE RUMORS, NO?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THOSE RUMORS
WELL, THAT ISN'T AS IMPORTANT AS MY PRECIOUS SLEEP, IS IT?
SLEEP...
ALL THANKS TO YOU, AT NIGHT THE DEVIL DOESN'T EMERGE.
All thanks to you, every night it's an early night sleep
AND I'D LIKE TO GET MARRIED SOON, TOO.
UNFORTUNATELY, AN IMPORTANT MEETING IS COMING SO THERE'S NO TIME RIGHT NOW.
FOR THE MOMENT FORGIVE ME FOR THIS-
CLAIDE-SAMA...

MUST YOU KEEP DOING THAT?
I UNDER-STAND THAN YOU THINK...
Slapping people is a bad habit
SMACK
YOU IDIOT!
...ENGAGEMENT IS JUST FOR A PIECE OF PAPER! IT'S JUST FOR SHOW!
EVEN WITHOUT THE MARRIAGE, I CAN SUPPORT YOU BY YOUR SIDE...!
...?
SLAM
WHAT IS SHE MAD ABOUT?
MOST LIKELY...
BECAUSE CLAUDE-SAMA LACKS THE SLIGHTEST SENSE OF DELICACY
Miserable

...that...
...I knew from the beginning but...
Gimme a break!
I KNOW THAT...
CLAUDE-SAMA ONLY THINKS OF ME AS A TOOL TO SUPPRESS THE DEVIL IN HIM
I keep recalling bad memories...
Trouble!
Devils are gathering in the village!
Get the Mick Family!
They'll get rid of them -
Still a child back then,
...it puzzled me.
"Mother..."
"Mel, stay back!"

Why did everyone lend their powers?
the witches rushed over to help.
Even after being so mercilessly persecuted by the people.
I shouldn't have expected anything...
...so that...
...even if they were to turn their backs on us so easily...
It's only the voice of the Micks that the devils obey!
What are they doing!?
But,
The village is burnt!
Return my son to me!
They're useless if their voices can't reach the devils!
To be of use to someone...
"To me you're necessary."
Now, I understand just a little.
...isn't so bad, I realized that day.
MEL!
...even if we were no longer of any use –

Kilim
Mel's stalker. Even like this he is a high level devil!
KILIM!
YOU'LL SEE. WE'LL SHOW THOSE HUMANS...
FLAP!!
LOOK FORWARD...
...TO THE ENGAGEMENT BEING CALLED OFF...!
MEL LET'S SIGN THIS...!
WHAT'S THIS...A CONTRACT?
I don't want to read it.
DON'T MAKE IT SOUND THAT BAD... COME WITH ME MEL... I'D PROTECT YOU WITH MY LIFE
IF YOU EXCHANGE VOWS WITH A DEVIL, THAT RELATIONSHIP IS ABSOLUTE!
THAT FOOLISH-LOOKING PRINCE WILL SURELY BREAK HIS PROMISE, JUST AS LOW-LEVEL DEVILS WILL SURELY COMMIT SAVAGE ACTS.
WHY I, THE POWERFUL DEVIL KILIM-SAMA—
YANK

It's true that even by saying that, it's impossible, because of my own feelings, the outcome is inevitable.
"The talk about engagement is just for a piece of paper."
squawk
I was locked out
A ADERE-SAN
MEEEL-SAAMA~
But... a single word about the secret could undermine this relationship.
Do you understand?
Y-yes.
I-I-I-I'M SORRY!
Don't you have any self-awareness?!
AND YOU WERE SPEAKING WITH THAT DEVIL AGAIN!
HOW LONG DO YOU INTEND TO AVOID YOUR STUDIES!?
"If you exchange vows with a devil, the relationship is absolute!"
Just as Kilim said,
GULP
HAVE YOU MADE UP YOUR MIND WHETHER YOU'RE GOING TO BECOME CLAUDE-SAMA'S QUEEN!?
I'M NOT SURE IF YOU ARE A WITCH OR COMMONER
Adere-san is so scary
NEVERTHELESS, THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR PAST!
Afraid to look her in the eye.

4

If we tie everything together with a slip of paper, will it become easier?

Seo

Claude's guardian. His age is unknown. He can speak to Claude quite harshly with a straight face, though Claude is rather fond of him.

Adere

Mel's teacher. Strict oba-chan. Chases after Kilim using a rope. A strong character.

Wajima

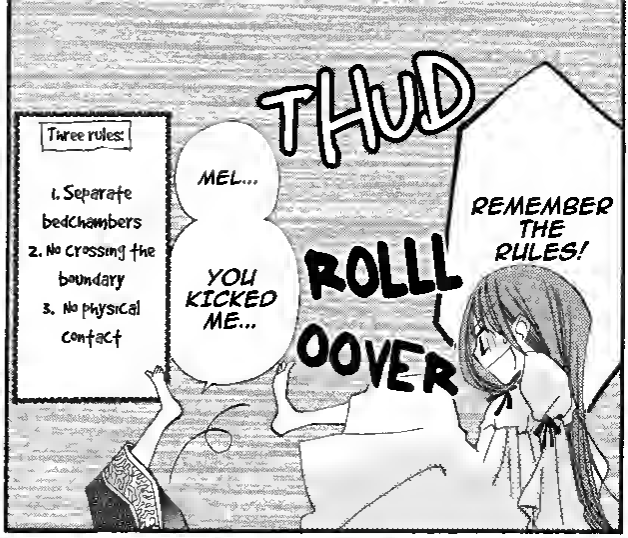
Cabinet minister.

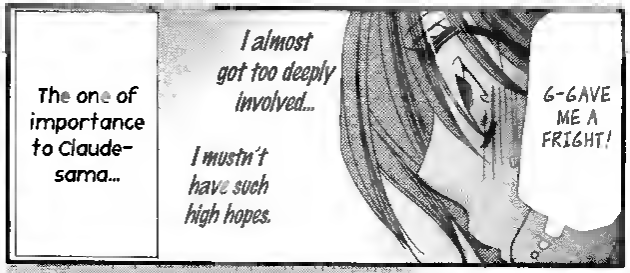
IF I MADE YOU MAD THIS MORNING, I APOLOGIZE
I'VE ALWAYS LIVED ONLY THINKING
ALWAYS CONSIDERING EVERY ACTION IN DETAIL.
.. OF HOW NOT TO TARNISH THE NAME OF THIS FAMILY,

SO YOU'LL FORGIVE ME?
I'M SORRY TOO...
ABOUT THAT,
Hallucination?
Sad
EH.
NO...
DON'T SAY IT'S JUST A PIECE OF PAPER...
Squeeze
THAT'S A RELIEF...
LETTING GO OF YOUR HAND
IS UN-THINKABLE
CL
Softly
CLAUDE
SA-

5

High-level devil. Mel's stalker. other than that he is a character that likes to say the first thing that comes to mind...
The day before, my mother and sister said, "That dove is so cute," and, "Yup, that dove is really cute," but Kilim isn't a dove! Kilim is modeled after a devil called "Camio," so it isn't correct to call him a dove. Drawing the design was troublesome so if it's plain, it can't be helped.
He will appear in human form in the 4th chapter but I haven't been able to come up with a good design yet, so that will be interesting.
- Laugh -
After seeing this, I jokingly thought, "Wow, he really does look like a dove..."





TO SURAMILA DISTRICT?
...is only the me who that is part of Mick Family so...
THAT'S RIGHT,
I TOLD YOU PREVIOUSLY THERE WAS AN IMPORTANT MEETING THAT I MUST ATTEND.
EH...
B-BUT...

HOLDING HANDS
...MAKES ME RECALL WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY...
LOOK... IT WAS SAID THAT CLAUDE-SAMA WAS MADE TO ATTEND TODAY'S MEETING...
WHY DO I HAVE TO GO...
HOW RARE... EVEN THOUGH IMPORTANT MEETINGS WERE ALWAYS ATTENDED ON HIS BEHALF...
...Oh, so that's why.
had always been concerned that he would go on a rampage, so he never attended.
Claude-sama who becomes a devil at night.
squeeze
If he is able to take this step forward,
doesn't that mean he's able to depend on me?
STIFF EXPRESSION...
!

...LET'S GO!
Clatter
DARNIT,
DEVILS?
WHAT ARE THEY DOING IN THIS PLACE? HOW SUSPICIOUS
?
In the midst of stalking.
HMM?
I NEED TO GET CLOSER TO ME!
THAT GUY IS IN THE WAY.

EH!?
NO MATTER WHAT PEOPLE ASK YOU, JUST SAY YOU ARE THE CASTLE'S MAID
YOU NEED TO GO AROUND IN THIS OUTFIT FOR TODAY.
SO...
WHAT'S WITH THIS OUTFIT?
HAHAHA, POOR MEL-SAMA
Well, you look good in it, but it's really just to boost his ego.
MAID!? A MAID!?

If he takes a witch for a wife,
the royal family's image would be ruined.
Ah...
...so that's it?

AS ONE WOULD EXPECT, MEL-SAMA CANNOT BE INTRODUCED.
AFTER ALL, THIS PLACE IS WHERE REPRESENTATIVES OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES GATHER-

Indeed, that's how it is...
Claude-sama is a person of great pride.
Clench
IF THAT WAS THE CASE,
THERE WASN'T A NEED TO BUY SUCH A BEAUTIFUL NECKLACE...
THEN, PLEASE BE ON YOUR WAY CLAUDE-SAMA.
? AH., SEE YOU, MEL.
GO SOMEWHERE WHERE NO ONE WILL SEE YOU.
...YES,
I UNDER-STAND.
PLEASE BE CAREFUL.

flop
MMPH.
HOW TIRING...
...SHE LOOKED LIKE WAS ABOUT TO CRY.
DID I...
...DO SOMETHING TO UPSET HER AGAIN?
OH? YOU NOTICED? YOU'VE GROWN QUITE A BIT, HAVEN'T YOU?
slide slide slide
Please hurry up and walk
.....
I SHOULD RETURN BEFORE SUNSET
IT WOULDN'T BE GOOD IF SOMETHING HAPPENED
.....
this disparity still hurts.
Even though I understand,
.....
WAH!
KILIM?
MEL!
You gave me a shock.
Jump

Knock
Knock
?
MEL-SAMA,
WHAT, WAS IT JUST MY IMAGINATION..? SURELY THEY WERE AFTER MEL...
NOT ME!!
HMM? THE ONE THAT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME?
HAVE YOU SEEN A MYSTERIOUS LOOKING DEVIL?
AN UNFAMILIAR NAME...
KYA! IT'S THAT DEVIL BIRD AGAIN!
IT SEEMS YOU NEED TO SIGN HERE
EH?
THERE'S A PACKAGE FOR YOU
WHY SUCH AN ELABORATE PRANK...
Get back here!
WAIT!
BOING
BOING
POP
"TO MY DEAR WITCH"...

I need to get to...
Dizzy
!
No...
Gasp
Pray
What-
Poison...!?
...Claude-sama...
...the sun is setting...
MEL'S GONE!?
KILIM, WHAT HAPPENED WHILE YOU WERE THERE?
SLAM

SHUT UP— YOU AND THE CASTLE FOLKS NEED SOME SERIOUS EDUCATING!
Chasing a guy like me around with a rope. I've no interest in being pushed around by that old hag!
It's Adere-san.
I entrusted her with that duty.
Tch
EASILY KIDNAPPING PEOPLE FROM THE CASTLE,
IS THIS THE WORK OF THE DEVILS...?
IF YOU HAVE SUSPICIONS ABOUT ME, WHY DON'T YOU BRING ME ALONG...?
THE ONE WHO SENT ME AWAY BECAUSE THINGS GOT INCONVENIENT, WAS YOU, STUPID PRINCE.
AAH.. SO IT'S BUT YOU AREN'T ABLE TO LEAVE THE CASTLE!
IT'S GETTING LATE TOO-
A ha ha ha
AAH...
...NOT AT ALL..
IT'S EXTREMELY CONVENIENT.
DASH—
—DASH
WAIT!

Cough Cough
What!? They can't hear me...?
TREAT HER WITH COURTEOUSNESS TART, SHE'S ONE WE SEARCH FOR SO LONG
I'M GOING TO FALL, YOU IDIOT!
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
Trotting Trotting
AH! THINGS GET VIOLENT,
DANGER INCREASING!
OH TARTIN, SOON WE BE ABLE RULE ENTIRE DEVIL WORLD.
smirk
!
These guys –
Slips
!
The necklace...!

-OI,
STOP TARTIN!
Leap
Claude-sama gave that-
...N-
THAT'S WHAT I SAY-
WE NOT BAD GUY.
T... THANK YOU...
EH...
Then wear around neck sheesh.
FOR YOU.
SOMETHING PRECIOUS?
Even though I understand,
that I don't mean a lot to Claude-sama...
MEL!

!
CLAUDE-SAMA...!?
FOUND YOU!
Why are you here...!?
If you run around at this time-
pant pant
WHAT THIS, ARE YOU OKAY, MEL.
HOW DID YOU END UP GETTING CAUGHT BY SUCH DEVILS?
TA
DA
LADY'S VOICE BEEN SEALED!!
AFTERALL YOU COULD USE YOUR VOICE TO-
FU FU FU...
TOO BAD,

IT'S JUST A CHILDISH CONTRACT.
VOICE...? WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS KILIM?
BECAUSE ME! SIGNED IT, HER VOICE CAN'T BE HEARD.
THAT PAPER READS THAT "THE SIGNEE'S VOICE WILL BE SEALED."
Gone...
JUST KILL THEM AND SHRED THE PAPER-
...because of a piece of paper.
DID YOU SIGN IT...?
GLOOM
So it was that-
What a stupid trap...
I signed the parcel
.....
I vaguely remember something...

CLAUDE-SAMA! I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS MYSELF, SO PLEASE RETURN TO THE CASTLE IMMEDIATELY!
SHOULD YOU CHANGE INTO A DEVIL, THIS TIME I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO STOP YOU...!
...
Tremble
Tremble
Tremble
Sigh
.....
SO? YOU GUYS KIDNAPPED MEL.
BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO RULE THE WORLD OF DEVILS.
YOU FIGURE OUT QUICKLY.
Claude-sama gave up...?
It's normal... to completely take no notice of me.
PRINCE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
HUMANS ONLY PRECIOUS GIFT IS BEING ABLE HELP OTHERS.
.....
Without a voice, I-
DON'T MAKE THAT FACE, MEL.

FLAP
WAH!
EH...
I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND WHAT THOSE GUYS ARE THINKING SO
IT'LL BE FINE.
...Red...
...eyes.
I'LL LEAVE THE REST TO YOU,
MEL.

BANG BANG
...TIME IS RUNNING OUT, HURRY UP AND CHOOSE,
FWOOSH
TO BE MATURE AND HAND OVER THE CONTRACT OR...
BANG BANG
W...
WHAT?
Whoosh
W...WHAT IS THIS!? THAT GUY-
...!
A DEVIL!?
...DIE HERE.

FUNNY JOKE...
FU... PRICE TO RULE COUNTRY IS BECOME DEVIL...?
AND HE'S PROBABLY BEEN FIGHTING IT TOO, AFTER I KICKED HIS EGO
KNOCK
Arrrow
Flap
REMOVING THE LIMITER FROM ONE'S SELF TRANFORMS ONE INTO A DEMON...
EH...?
WITH HIS COAT ON, THE FORCE OF THE MOON WAS STILL WEAKENED...
THROW
I SO TIRED OF THESE HUMANS!
RUMBLE
!
SO FAST!
HAHA! THOSE DEVILS ARE DEAD.
!
ITS EASY TO SEE WHO'S STRONGER
LOOSEN
Better to leave it alone.
STUPID, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF THEY HAD HANDED IT OVER OBEDIENTLY..
THUMP
Die...?

THAT'S GREAT. THIS WAY MEL WILL REGAIN HER VOICE
I'll watch from above.
Even if that's the case...
Grip
But-
UWAAA!
TART!!
Y-YOU,
LET-
KNOCK
OI, MEL!?
CLAUDE-SAMA!
THIS DUEL IS OVER. PLEASE LET THEM GO...!

Grrowl
Scary
Y-
YOU...
!
MEL... THIS ISN'T GOOD. THIS TIME...
...HE'S COMPLETELY TAKEN.
CLAUDE-SAMA!
Stalk
CLAUDE-SAMA,
WAKE UP.

Claude-sama... won't need me anymore.
MEL!
...it won't work after all.
I'm such an idiot.
"It'll be fine."
Even after receiving his trust, I wasn't able to do it.
GAU
Does my voice really not reach you?
—WHY...

SLAP
STUPID PRINCE!
DON'T JOKE AROUND!
I'M ACTUALLY REALLY DISSATISFIED, SO!!
AAH, I'M RELIEVED! NOW THAT YOU CAN'T HEAR WHAT I SAY, I'LL TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LET EVERYTHING OUT!
THAT HURTS ME ONE MINUTE AND MAKES ME OVERJOYED THE NEXT,
BEING TREATED LIKE A TOOL,
YOU BEING KIND ONLY WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE IT,
ALL THESE-

FU...
AS USUAL, WAKING ME UP WITH A SLAP.
MEL,
IF YOU'RE DISSATISFIED WITH SOMETHING, TELL ME.
Simple words...
DON'T LET IT PILE UP.
FOR ME, IT IS ENOUGH IF YOU JUST STAY BY MY SIDE, EXACTLY THE WAY YOU ARE.
...bind more powerfully...
...than what was written on paper...

FLAP
MEL-CHAN, IT'S DONE!
I DON'T SEE THE POINT IN SAVING THOSE DEVILS.
In the end, the number of suitors have increased...
suitor 1
Anything for Mel-chan!
Well if it for Mel, Tart and Tartin will do it!
Contract - We pledge to not speak of the prince's secret to anyone else. By Tart and Tartin.
Yesss
Please, sign here~
Victory
Contract
Y-ES, I'VE SEEN IT.
Grumpy
...?
AAH, SPEAKING OF WHICH,
EH... MAYBE,
THAT'S HOW IT IS..
STILL HIDING ANY FEELINGS?

...I realized what I wanted to say most was...
...that I'm in love.
SHEESH,
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO AGREE TO THE MARRIAGE?
That's why, when I couldn't speak...
...was because at that time, I was so glad that he retrieved my necklace...
"Something precious?"
The reason for saving that devil...
...really, acting like a fool.
NO...
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T LIKE IT.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
IT SUITS YOU, IT STANDS OUT AGAINST YOUR RED HAIR
-AH...
That's true
YOU FINALLY WORE IT.

After all, it's the royal family's name. Nothing will happen
?? BUT THAT...
...WOULD DESTROY THE ROYAL FAMILY'S HONOR?
SIZING UP SOMEONE'S CHOSEN MARRIAGE PARTNER WOULD ALSO SAY THE WORTH OF THAT PERSON
HONOR? WHY WOULD THAT...?
AHH DARNIT, THANKS TO YOU, THIS TIME MEL WON'T BE INTRODUCED AGAIN!
If you have free time to express such words, please do your job
Only 5 minutes left
EH..
AH.. NO.
YOU CAN RELAX.
ANY OTHER PROBLEMS?
Mel gets really touchy when she hears rumors
THAT ALWAYS APPEARS WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT ISSUES LIKE THE ONE BEFORE, LIKE THE MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE
SPEAKING OF WHICH, I CAN'T TOLERATE THAT GLEAM OF CURIOSITY IN YOUR EYES,
slip
IT'LL BE MOSTLY APPOINTMENTS TO SHOW OFF
AFTER THE MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENT HAS ENDED,

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Am I already...
...held captive?
THERE ISN'T ANY PLACE FOR YOU TO RUN ANYMORE, MEL.
IF YOU'RE UNSATISFIED, WHY DON'T YOU SAY IT?
WELL, EVEN WITHOUT LISTENING I'D UNDERSTAND.
Aha ha
...!

Rikuna to Duel

Scanner:
Hime

Translator:
Xiv

Proofreaders:
Mangafreakslan26

Editor:
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Quality Check:
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